REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1 and 3-5, and leaves claims 6-10 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-10.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-5 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and claims 6-10 are allowed. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include features of original claim 3, and Applicants have further amended claims 1 and 3-5 to more clearly recite the features of the present invention. Applicants submit that claims 1-10 are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,397,117 to Burrows, et al. ("Burrows"). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in claim 1, are not taught or suggested by Burrows, whether taken individually, or in combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims so as to more clearly describe the features of the present invention. Specifically, the claims were amended to more clearly describe that the present invention is directed to a remote order acceptance design system, as recited, for example, in independent claim 1.

The present invention, as recited in claim 1, provides a remote order acceptance design system. The system includes means for sending a list of basic specifications of a plurality of products that can be offered to a customer's terminal according the customer's requirement. The system also includes a database that stores CAD symbols. Each CAD symbol includes at least product name information, structure information, structure information expressing structural features of the product, basic specification information, and effective space information expressing space that should be secured for installing the product for each of the products that can be offered. The system also includes a first input receiving means for receiving input of a requirements specification of an order-made product that includes one or more equipments. Furthermore, the system includes a data taking means for retrieving the basic specification information stored in the database, based on the requirements specification whose input is received by the first input receiving means, and for taking out a corresponding CAD symbol from the database. Also included in the system is a data output means for outputting the CAD symbols taken out by the data taking mans to an input source that has input the requirements specification of the order-made product. The system also includes a second input receiving means for receiving input of the customer's design data that include the CAD symbol of the order-made product. Another feature of the system includes means for extracting structural features within the occupied space expressed by the effective space information of the CAD symbol of the order made product from the customer's design data received by the second input receiving means, and for judging existence

of interference in an installation area of the order-made product, based on the structural features. The prior art does not disclose all these features.

The above described features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in claim 1, are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record. More specifically, the features are not taught or suggested by Burrows, whether taken individually or in combination with the other references or record.

Burrows discloses a distributed computer aided design (CAD) system and method. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Burrows of a remote order acceptance design system of the present invention, as recited in the claims.

The Burrows distributed CAD system includes a CAD server station and one or more CAD client stations remote from the server station, but connectable thereto via a communications medium such as an intranet or the Internet. The CAD server station includes a CAD tool for performing CAD tasks and a communications interface. The CAD client stations includes display and data entry facilities for displaying a design parameter entry document to a user and for accepting design parameters entered by the user, as well as a communications interface for transmitting entered design parameters vial the communications medium to the server station. The CAD tool at the server station is configured to receive the design parameters from the client station, to perform CAD tasks based on the design parameters, and to return processed design data to the server station via the communications medium. The client station can include a workstation with a web browser capability. The server station can be configured to respond to a request

from a client station to supply a design parameter input form. Integrated circuit design can be performed by providing circuit design executables and circuit design libraries at the CAD tool. The CAD tool can also provide simulation tools.

One feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 1, includes a database that stores CAD symbols, each including at least product name information, structure information indicating structural features of the product, basic specification information, and effective space information indicating a space that should be secured for installing the product, for each of the products that can be offered. Burrows does not disclose these features. As shown in Fig. 2, and as described in column 4, lines 5-18, Burrows discloses design tool libraries 39. However, there is no teaching in Burrows that the design tool libraries include at least product name information, structure information indicating structural features of the product, basic specification information, and effective space information indicating a space that should be secured for installing the product, for each of the products that can be offered, in the manner claimed.

Another feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 1, includes a means for extracting structural features within the occupied space indicated by the effective space information of the CAD symbol of the order made product from the customer's design data received by the second input receiving means, and for judging for the existence of interference in an installation area of the order-made product, based on the structural features. Burrows does not disclose this feature. Burrows discloses a distributed CAD system, where when parameters are input by

the user side computer, the data is transmitted to the CAD server station, and the CAD tool at the CAD server station is executed to perform a calculation. The result of the calculation is transmitted to the user side computer for display. The Burrows system is a basic structure of a distributed design support system in which a design of a circuit may be performed by the collaboration of a plurality of designers. On the other hand, the present invention provides a means for extracting structural features within an occupied space indicated by the effective space information of the CAD symbol and means for judging whether any interference exists. Burrows does not disclose these features.

Therefore, Burrows fails to teach or suggest "a database that stores CAD symbols each including at least product name information, structure information indicating structural features of the product, basic specification information, and effective space information indicating a space that should be secured for installing the product, for each of said products that can be offered" as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, Burrows fails to teach or suggest "a means for extracting structural features within the occupied space indicated by the effective space information of the CAD symbol of said order made product from the customer's design data received by said second input receiving means, and for judging existence of interference in an installation area of said order-made product, based on said structural features" as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Burrows fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration

and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references used in the rejection of claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-10 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-10 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. 566.41234X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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